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SPORTS

Winchester girls basketball looks to regain winning form after losses to Belmont, Burlington

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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The Winchester High School girls basketball team celebrated Senior Night on Jan. 23. The team is working to regain its winning streak. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Since we last checked in on the Winchester High girls basketball
they were 7-2, and authors of six straight wins. Momentum was o

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side, and it continued against Reading (54-53, Jan. 9), Malden Catholic (41-35, Jan. 11) and Watertown (50-45, Jan. 13), before Belmont clipped them in a heartbreaker on Jan. 16, 42-41 to snap the winning streak at nine. The Red & Black then dropped a 44-38 decision to host Burlington on Jan. 20.

Call it the mid-season winter blahs or the basketball not bouncing the right way, but Coach Sam Mosley's team, now 10-4, already knew before those losses that it clinched a postseason berth. They understand that there's still work to be done with seven games left on the regular season schedule.

There's the matter of the power rankings, which shows them seeded 22nd in Division 1 as of Jan. 20. More wins racked up over the next several weeks will earn them a higher seed, and a possible home game in the first round of the state tournament.

In the aforementioned Reading game at home, Mosley labeled this close win over the Rockets as "gritty."

Trailing most of the game against their sharpshooting rivals, with the largest deficit at nine, the Winchester girls refused to give up.

With 1:35 left in the game, senior captain Catherine Ryan pulled down an offensive rebound and went right back up for two to tie the score at 50. On the next possession, freshman Mya Korpal stole the ball, before scoring the go-ahead basket. It was the team's first lead of the game.

The visitors, however, wasted no time to tie the game up again with only 49 seconds left on the clock.

Winchester, however, was composed against Reading's zone press. Korpal, playing the wing, eventually found a lane to drive to the basket to account for the game-winning points. She ended the game with 15 points

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The defense then took over in the last 30 seconds to maintain the slim advantage. Junior GG Fantini alertly drew an offensive charge to seal the deal with five seconds to go. Carolyn Collins, another freshman, paced the offensive attack against the Rockets with 19 points, while also grabbing 10 rebounds.

“We played a mentally tough game to pull out this victory,” said Mosley.

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Defense was also a factor in the Malden Catholic game.

“We started slowly, but then only allowed two points in the second quarter, and five in the fourth,” said Mosley.

The coach then singled out Fantini after the junior played an incredible all-around game.

“(Fantini) was fantastic at both ends of the court, ending the game with 15 points and 5 rebounds,” Mosley said.

Ryan was the leader on offense in this game with 14 points, and was also credited with five rebounds.

Watertown was another close game, because the visiting Raiders were pressuring the ball to force turnovers, according to the veteran Winchester coach. Mosley then added that “(our) girls persevered, and played hard (to win this game).”

The Red & Black were up by three late, when Collins, who led the team in scoring with 21 points, nailed two clutch free throws to secure th
Sophomore Molly Doyle had a double / double with 10 points and
high 15 rebounds.

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The loss against host Belmont was a result of another slow start, when the Marauders jumped out to a 9-2 lead. The team was also missing its captain Catherine Ryan, who was sidelined with an ankle injury. They were rattled at first, before eventually settling down, trailing by only four points at halftime.

“We did take the lead, but unfortunately our efforts were a little late (to maintain it) in order to pull off the comeback win,” said Mosley.

Doyle accounted for her fourth double / double of the season with 10 points and 13 rebounds to go along with no turnovers. Collins finished with 12 points, and was a perfect six-for-six from the free throw line.

Mosley specifically mentioned that junior Averie Monti stepped up into a starting role, and played tremendous defense, while finishing up with 9 points and 9 rebounds.

After the loss to Burlington, the Red & Black were scheduled to go up against visiting Arlington on Senior Night, Jan. 23. They will then remain at home to take on Wilmington (Jan. 27, 6 p.m.) and Woburn (Jan. 30, 7 p.m.) to close out the second month of the season.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News in November 2024.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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February 26, 2026

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Wi Church St., join in with Sylc concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 4, 2026

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